Dear Jim, 5/30/76

Paul W sent me Oriana Fallaci's interview with Colby, printed in edited version in The New Republic of 3/13/76. While reading it over a two-day period may have reduced its value, it is a very valuable piece.

One of its values if for anyone suing the CIA.

Colby is very tough. He calls himself a Puritan. She describes him as a priest.

But he let things slip.

For suing a remarkably clear and accurate representation of the CIA state of mind and policy. He is explicit is saying they deliberately did what they knew to be illegal because of some perceived moral right, a morality above the law, which is inadequent, naturally, not having the CIA's true understanding.

I believe it would be worthwhile to ask her, perhaps through NR, for the full text. This interview was transcribed. There are dots indicating omissions. What was not worth the space in an article may be quite significant.

I love her unhidden passion. Her interviews are dialogues.

Of interest in Tiger is what Colby admitted, that there was no intervention in Chile until 1964.

On mail interception he is explicit if he also lies, limiting to the USSR.

They knew it was illegal when they were doing it. Their alleged reasons are enough to eliminate most of the copied and intercepted mail. Unless it is really paranoid: all Americans are potential or actual KGB agents.

Tough as this guy is there is, with this article alone, a field day for a good court-room lawyer who is politically sophisticated and anywhere to the left of dead center. A real Ameriform Nazi will emerge.

My own belief is that anyone who filed while he was Director can join him in the suit and thus have the right to depose of cross-examine him while examining.

If you call Fallaci, he deceived her on the law, with the dodge of having FOIA only in mind. She asked for her files. He told her to write and that there would be charges. Tell her they cannot assess them under PA.

Best,